



NEWS RELEASE

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FHP CRACKS DOWN ON IMPAIRED DRIVING DURING HOLIDAY SEASON

~ *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Gov. Charlie Crist recently proclaimed December as *National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month*. As part of Florida's focus on safe highway travel during the holiday season, the Florida Highway Patrol will join thousands of other law enforcement and highway safety agencies across the nation in *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*, a nationwide campaign targeting impaired driving, beginning today through Jan. 3, 2011.

Impaired driving is one of the deadliest crimes, especially during the holiday period. During the 2009 New Year's Day holiday travel period, over 56 percent of the traffic fatalities in Florida were alcohol related. The Florida Highway Patrol will use zero tolerance enforcement strategies to target impaired drivers, as well as those who violate other traffic laws that put themselves and other motorists at risk. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians who comply with our state's traffic laws and use sound judgment can help make the holiday period safer and less stressful for everyone.

"All too often innocent, law-abiding people suffer tragic consequences due to this careless disregard for human life," said FHP Director, Colonel John Czernis. "We are intensifying enforcement during the holidays and we will be especially vigilant during high-risk, night-time hours when impaired drivers are most likely to be on our roads."

FHP Auxiliary and Reserve troopers will once again augment the Patrol during the heightened travel periods. Troopers work hard to keep you safe, so do your part – drive responsibly! The Patrol offers these tips to make your holidays safer:

- Plan ahead: Whenever you plan to consume alcohol, designate your sober driver before going out and give that person your car keys.
- If you are impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a friend or family member to get you home safely.
- Promptly report drunk drivers to law enforcement. Dial *FHP (*347) from your cell phone to contact the Florida Highway Patrol.

Motorists who experience car trouble on the highway or otherwise need assistance from the FHP are also encouraged to call *FHP (*347).

Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest. is a deterrence program organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness. For more information on the campaign, visit www.Stopimpaireddriving.org.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov or follow us on Twitter at [@FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV).

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